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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 183139 TOSEC 080349

15
ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 /026 R

66622
DRAFTED BY: EA:PCHABIB:AP
APPROVED BY: S/S-O:JHOGANSON
---------- 066181
O 041047Z AUG 75 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183139 TOSEC 080349

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE, TOKYO, STOCKHOLM INFO
SINGAPORE FROM KUALA LUMPUR AUG 04:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4528

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:
SUBJ: CONSUL BEING HELD HOSTAGE

1. I HAVE JUST COME FROM MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER.
IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION AS TO OUR POSITION, I SAID
THAT EVEN THOUGH STANDARD AND CONTINUING AMERICAN POLICY
WAS NOT TO GIVE IN TO TERRORIST DEMANDS, THESE DEMANDS WERE
NOT ON U.S. GOVERNMENT AND WE THEREFORE TOOK NO
POSITION ON THEM. I ADDED THAT I HAD TALKED TO HABIB BY
TELEPHONE AND THAT MY INSTRUCTIONS WERE CLEAR: THE USG
WAS NOT PRESSING THE GOM OR GOJ EITHER WAY. I ALSO SAID
THAT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, MY CONCERN WAS FOR THE LIVES
OF THE HOSTAGES AND THAT I WOULD COOPERATE WITH
HIM IN ANY WAY HE WISHED.

2. PM THANKED ME AND SAID THAT JAPANESE AMBASSADOR NOW ON
HIS WAY FROM AIRPORT (HE ENTERED AS I LEFT) AND THAT HIS
IMMEDIATE CONCERN WAS TO DETERMINE POSITION OF JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT. JAPANESE FIRST SECRETARY HERE HAS HAD
NO WORD FROM HIS GOVERNMENT. PM SAID THAT GOM'S CONCERN
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WAS FIRST OF ALL FOR LIVES OF HOSTAGES, MOST OF WHOM WERE

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MALAYSIAN CITIZENS. HE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, PUT ANY PRESSURE
ON JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

3. PM ASKED IF I HAD ADVICE. I TOLD HIM THAT BY ALL
MEANS WE SHOULD KEEP TALKING WITH THE TERRORISTS AND
POINTED OUT FACT THAT DEADLINE HAD NOW SLIPPED
THREE TIMES AND WAS NOW 5:20 PM LOCAL TIME WAS ENCOURAGING.
I EXPRESSED MY COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN THE MALAYSIAN POLICE
ADDING THAT MY ADVICE WAS THAT NO FRONTAL
ASSAULT BE ATTEMPTED. PM AGREED. HE THEN SAID THAT
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS MANICKAVASAGAM WOULD ATTEMPT TO
CONTACT TERRORISTS BY TELEPHONE TO DISPLAY
GOO'S SERIOUSNESS TO KEEP A DIALOGUE GOING.

4. I HAVE NOW RETURNED TO EMBASSY WHERE WE ARE NOW
MAINTAINING SKELETON FORCE ON 11TH AND 12TH FLOORS OF
BUILDING. ONLY NEW DEVELOPMENT AT SCENE IS THAT POLICEMAN
HAS BEEN WOUNDED IN LEG BY SNIPER FIRE FROM 9TH FLOOR.

5. ALSO, RED ARMY GUNMEN HAVE NOT ALLOWED CONSUL STEBBINS TO
GIVE US COMPLETE LIST OF HOSTAGES. GUNMAN SAID, HOWEVER,
THAT THERE ARE FOUR CHILDREN IN THE GROUP. HE ALSO
REITERATED 5:30 PM LOCAL TIME DEADLINE AND DEMANDED
THAT POLICE CLEAR PARKING LOT AROUND BUILDING (WHERE POLICEMAN
WAS INJURED AS NOTED ABOVE). DILLONG UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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